

The Verb in Modern Tamil

Pon. Kothandaraman

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PREFACE

The two essays that follow have already appeared in *Pulamai* (Vol. 3 No. 2 and 3). Though many scholars have worked on modern literary Tamil, a complete analysis of the verb has yet to come in printed form. I hope this tiny volume will be useful for the scholars who work on modern Tamil verb and for the non-Tamil speakers who are interested in the study of modern Tamil.

P. K.

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The Simple Verb in Modern Tamil

Pon. KOTHANDARAMAN

1. Simple Verb

By simple verb we mean the verb with only one root plus one or more suffixes.

1. 1. Finite Forms : By finite forms we mean the finite verbs which exclude the adjectival and adverbial participles and the nouns derived from verbs.

1. 1. 1. The stem : The simple verb stem may contain a verb root or a root plus one or two grammatical suffixes. The simple verb stems might be summarized as follows;

$$\text{Rule 1} \quad \text{Vst} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Vs}_1 \text{ - (PV)} \\ \text{Vs}_2 \end{array} \right\} \text{ (Caus)}$$

where Vst = verb stem
Vs₁ = a class of verb stem
Vs₂ = another class of verb stem
PV = piraviṇai marker
Caus = causative marker

The verbs which belong to Vs₁ can take PV as well as Caus or both¹. The verbs which belong to Vs₂ do not take the PV but they can optionally take Caus. The possible sequences and examples are given below.

1 Vs₁ e.g., naṭa 'walk'

2 Vs_1 - PV	naṭattu 'make ... walk'
3 Vs_1 - Caus	naṭappi 'cause to walk'
4 Vs_1 - PV - Caus	naṭattuvi 'cause to make ... walk'
5 Vs_2	cey 'do'
6 Vs_2 - Caus	ceyvi 'cause to do'

Vs_1 : There is a class of verb capable of taking PV and Vs_1 stands for this class of verbs.² To put it in other words, PV forms the basis for the classification of Vs_1 and Vs_2 . The traditional grammarians call the verbs of Vs_1 *Taṇṇiṇai* 'self-action - verb' and the verbs of Vs_2 - PV *Piraviṇai* 'non-self-action verb'. For instance, naṭa 'walk' is *Taṇṇiṇai* and naṭattu 'make ... walk' is *Piraviṇai*.

Vs_1 before taking PV is taṇṇiṇai and it becomes piraviṇai after taking piraviṇai marker (PV). In the instance *naṭattu* the PV can be analyzed as - *ttu*. But, this is not the case with all the other verbs of Vs_1 . Therefore Vs_1 needs further classification.³

Vs_1 further classified: Consider the following instances where the piraviṇai forms are given along with their taṇṇiṇai forms.

(a) naṭa 'walk'	naṭattu 'make ... walk'
malar 'blossom'	malarttu 'make ... blossom'
niḷ 'be lengthened,	niṭṭu 'lengthen'
pāy 'flow'	pāyccu 'make ... flow'
(b) paḷaku 'learn'	paḷakku 'train'
karuku 'get over burnt'	karukku 'over burn'
āṭu 'shake'	āṭṭu 'make ... shake'
ōṭu 'run'	ōṭṭu 'make ... run'
(c) tirumpu 'turn'	tiruppu 'make ... turn'
aṭaṅku 'be subdued'	aṭakku 'subdue'
tiruntu 'get all right'	tiruttu 'make ... all right'
varuntu 'be worried'	varuttu 'annoy'
(d) aḷi 'perish'	aḷi 'make ... perish'
maṇai 'hide'	maṇai 'make ... hide'

cēr 'join'
miḷ 'get back'

cēr 'make ... join'
miḷ 'get sth./sb. back'

The verbs given in (a) take the suffix *-ttu*. Obviously, *niṭṭu* and *pāyccu* have undergone some sandhi changes. Among the verbs given in (b) the final *-Pu* (P is a plosive consonant) has become *-PPu* when the verbs take PV. The final *-NPu* (N is a nasal consonant) of the verbs given in (c) has become *-PPu* when the verbs take PV. Regarding the verbs given in (d) we find no change in the stem level. But, when they take suffixes such as infinitive suffix, tense suffix, etc., we find the difference between *taṇṇinai* and *piraviṇai*. Note the difference, for instance, in the infinitive forms given below.

(e) aḷiya 'to perish'	aḷikka 'to make ... perish'
maṇaiya 'to hide'	maṇaikka 'to make ... hide'
cēra 'to join'	cēṛkka 'to make ... join'
miḷa 'to get back'	miṭṭa 'to get sth./sb. back'

Beyond doubt, *aḷiya* and *aḷikka* are grammatically related forms. A grammar must reasonably account for such relatedness of grammatical forms. In order to account for such formal difference, we can set up an abstract symbol in the stem level. To illustrate this, *aḷi* would be understood as *taṇṇinai* whereas *aḷi-X* would be understood as *piraviṇai*.

The *piraviṇai* is formed (1) by adding *-ttu* to the stem (*Vs₁*), (2) by changing the *-Pu* of the stem into *-PPu*, (3) by changing the *-NPu* of the stem into *-PPu*, or, (4) by adding the abstract symbol *-X* to the stem. On this basis *Vs₁* might be further classified into four subclasses.⁴

- 1 *Vs₁. a* : The verb stems of this subclass take the suffix *-ttu*.
- 2 *Vs₁. b* : The verb stems of this subclass change the final *-Pu* into *-PPu* to form *piraviṇai*.
- 3 *Vs₁. c* : The verb stems of this subclass change the final *-NPu* into *-PPu* to form *piraviṇai*.

- 4 Vs_1 . d : The verb stems of this subclass take -X to form *piraviṇai*.

The following rule summarizes this classification.

Rule 2.

$$Vs_1 \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Vs_1. a \\ Vs_1. b \\ Vs_1. c \\ Vs_1. d \end{array} \right\}$$

As already shown in Rule 1, the Vs_1 may be followed by FV as well as Caus or by both,⁵

Vs_2 : The verb stems of Vs_2 as already noted, never take PV, but they optionally take the causative suffix (Caus). The causative suffix is realized as *-ppi* after the verb stems whose optative forms end in *-kkā* and as *-pi* after optative forms ending in *-ka*.⁶

—pi > vi in the environments (1) V—V and (2) y, r, l, ɭ, ɭ—V.

- e. g., *paṭi* 'read'
paṭikka 'read'
paṭippi 'cause to read'
kāṇ 'see'
kāṇka 'see'
kāṇpi 'cause to see'
cey 'do'
ceyka 'do'
ceyvi 'cause to do'

Theoretically, it is possible to add the causative suffix with all the verbs. Also it is possible to add causative suffix to the stems which have a causative suffix already. For instance, *ceyvi* which has a causative suffix *-vi*, can take another causative suffix giving the form *ceyvippi*.⁷

1.1.2. Tense : There are three tenses in the simple verbs. In addition, there is a negative marker occurring in the same position of the tense markers. If negative can be taken for a tense, there are four tenses in Tamil, i.e. past, present, future and negative.

Past Tense : The past tense markers are *t*, *tt*, *nt*, *in* and the doubling of *P* as *PP*.⁸ On the basis of these tense markers the verb stems can be classified into five classes. But the stems need further classifications when we take other tenses into consideration.

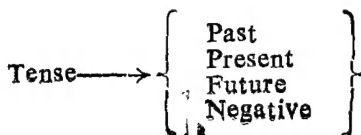
Present Tense : The present tense markers are *kiru*, *-kkiru*, *-kinru* and *kkinru*. Except when followed by the plural suffix *-ana*, *kiru* can freely alternate with *-kinru* and *kkiru* with *kkinru*. *-kiru* and *kinru* occur with the stems whose optative forms end in *-ka* and *-kkiru* and *kkinru* with the stems whose optative forms end in *-kka*.

Future Tense : The future tense markers are *v*, *p* and *pp*. There is another suffix *-um*, whose allomorphs are *-um*, *-kum* and *-kkum* signifying future tense as well as nonhuman or aṁṁṁṁṁṁ.⁹ The suffix *-pp* occurs with the stems whose optative forms end in *in* *-kka*, *p* with the stems ending in *n* or *ṇ* and *v* with the other stems.

Negative Tense : The negative tense markers are, *a*, *at*, *ka*, *kāt*, *kkā* and *kkāt*. The suffixes ending in *t* i.e. *-at*, *-kāt* and *-kkāt* occur when followed by certain suffixes such as the adjectival suffix *-a*. The stems whose optative forms end in *-kka*, take *-kkā* and *kkāt*.¹⁰ Among the other stems, the stems of (C)Ṽ type take *-kā* and *-kāt* and the rest of the stems take *-a* and *-at*.¹¹

The negative *-a* and its variants in modern Tamil occur only when they are followed by neuter suffix or adjective or participial suffix.¹² When the verb is conjugated for I person, II person and III person human, the negative is formed in a different way and it is not dealt with here.

Rule 3



Stem Class

When taking these tenses into consideration one may classify the verb stems as follows.¹³

	Past	Present	Future	Negative
1 Cey 'do'	t	kiru	v	ā
2 āl 'rule'	nt	"	"	"
3 aṅcu 'fear'	iṇ	"	"	"
4 naku 'smile'	Pu -PPu	"	"	"
5 Uṇ 'eat'	t	"	p	"
6 kēl 'hear'	tt	kkiru	pp	kkā
7 naṭa 'walk'	nt	"	"	"

Though class 1 and class 5 behave alike regarding the past tense, they behave differently regarding the future tense. Therefore they are treated as two different classes. Though class 2 and 7 behave alike in the case of past tense, they differ in the case of present, future and negative tenses. Therefore they are treated as two different classes.¹⁴

1. 1. 3. Person-number-gender markers (Png)

The suffixes like -āṇ, āl, etc. show the person, number and gender. Therefore such suffixes are called person-number-gender markers (Png).

I person is divided into Singular and Plural, II person into singular, honorific and plural and III person into masculine feminine, honorific, human plural, nonhuman singular and nonhuman plural. I person plural can be further divided into inclusive and exclusive. II person honorific can be further divided into honorific 1, and honorific 2.

The person-number-gender markers refer to the pronouns which stand as the subject. That is to say, the Png markers are determined according to the subject.

I person : The I person pronouns and the corresponding Png markers are given below :

pronoun		Png. markers
Sg. nāṇ	I	-āṇ

Pl (incl.)	nām	we	-ōm
Pl (excl.)	nāṅkaḷ	we	-ōm

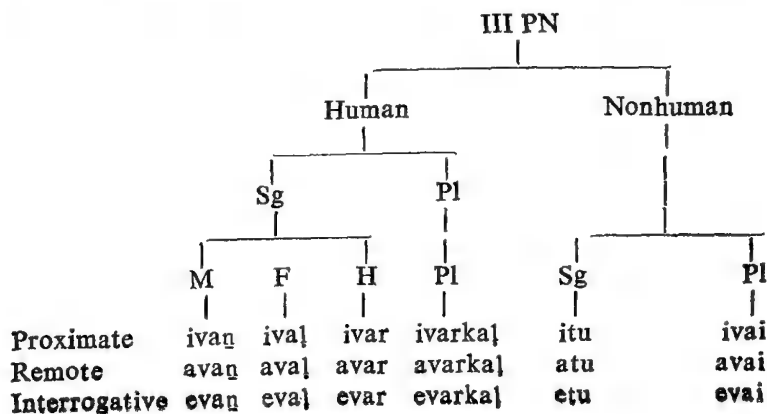
The Png markers occur after the tense markers in the verb. Both *nām* and *nāṅkaḷ* take -ōm as their concord element.¹⁵

II Person : The II person pronouns and the corresponding Png. markers are the following.

	Pronoun		Png. markers
Sg.	nī	'you'	-āy
Hon. 1	nīr	„	-ir
Hon. 2	nīnkaḷ	„	-irkaḷ
Pl	nīnkaḷ	„	-irkaḷ

It should be borne in mind that the Png. markers given above occur after the tense markers. Regarding the II person there are also other Png. markers occurring in the imperative forms of the verbs. Those Png. markers are dealt with elsewhere in the following sections.

III Person : The third person pronouns have to be dealt with under three divisions, namely, (a) proximate demonstrative, (b) remote demonstrative and (c) interrogative pronouns. Each of them is divided into six. The following diagram shows the divisions.



Proximate demonstrative : The proximate demonstrative pronouns and their Png. markers are shown below.

iva _n	'this - he'	-ā _n
iva _l	'this - she'	-ā _l
ivar	'this - he/she'	-ār
ivarka _l	'these people'	-ārka _l
itu	'this'	-atu
ivai(ka _l)	'these'	-a _n a

The Png markers are the same for the remote and interrogative pronouns. The Png markers for all other nouns for which these pronouns can be substitutes, are decided accordingly. That is to say, *ā_n* is chosen for all masculine nouns, *ā_l* is chosen for all feminine nouns and so on.

It should be noted here that *-atu* and *-ana* do not apply for future tense. When the verb involves future tense and non-human gender, the suffix is realized as *-um*. The variants of this *-um* are *kum* and *kkum*. The variant *kkum* occurs with the stems whose optative forms end in *-kka*, the variant *kum* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and *-um* occurs elsewhere. This is applicable for all the III person Png forms.

Remote Demonstrative : For easy reference the remote demonstrative pronouns and their Png markers are given below.

ava _n	'that-he'	-ā _n
ava _l	'that-she'	-ā _l
avar	'that he/she'	-ār
avarka _l	'those people'	-ārka _l
atu	'that'	-atu
avai (ka _l)	'those'	-a _n a

It is already stated that *-um*, *-kum*, and *kkum* occur when the verb takes future tense and nonhuman Png.

Interrogative : The interrogative pronouns and their Png markers are the following.

eva _n	'which-he'	-ā _n
eva _l	'which-she'	-ā _l

evar	'which-he/she'	-ār
everkaḷ	'which people'	-ārkaḷ
etu	'which'	-atu
evai(kaḷ)	'which'	-aṇa

Though it is theoretically possible to have *evarkaḷ*, it is not common in usage.¹⁶

The verbs when taking the tense and the Png have the structure Vst - tense -Png. The verbs when having this structure might be called indicative. A verb when conjugated for tense and Png can give 52 forms ($1 \times 4 \times 13 = 52$).¹⁷ The following rule summarizes the Png.

$$\text{Png} \longrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{I Png} \\ \text{II Png} \\ \text{III Png} \end{array} \right\}$$

1. 1. 4. **Imperative** : The imperative forms might be divided into four, i. e., (a) informal, (b) polite 1, (c) polite 2, and (d) plural.¹⁸

The informal imperative suffix is unmarked. The Polite¹ imperative suffix is *um*; the polite 2 imperative suffix is *-uṅkaḷ* and the plural imperative suffix is again the same *-uṅkaḷ*. The imperative suffix occurs after the stem. The structure of the verb when taking the imperative suffix is Vst - imp. The following rule accounts for the classification of imperative suffixes.

Rule 5

$$\text{Imperative} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Inf. imp} \\ \text{Po.1. imp} \\ \text{Po.2. imp} \\ \text{Pl. imp} \end{array} \right\}$$

e.g. Col -	>	Col	'say'
Col - um	>	Collum	'say'
Col - uṅkaḷ	>	Colluṅkaḷ	'say'
Col - uṅkaḷ	>	Colluṅkaḷ	'say'

1. 1. 5 Desiderative The desiderative suffix is *-aṭṭum*. It has the variants *-kaṭṭum* and *-kkaṭṭum*. The suffix *-kkaṭṭum* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, that is, the stems whose optative forms end in *-kka*, the suffix *-kaṭṭum* occurs with the stems of (C)Ṫ type and *-aṭṭum* occurs with the other stems.

e.g. paṭi - kkaṭṭum	>	paṭikkāṭṭum	'let - - - read'
pō - kaṭṭum	>	pōkaṭṭum	'let - - - go'
col - aṭṭum	>	collaṭṭum	'let - - - say'

1. 1. 6 Optative : The optative suffix is *-ka* and its variant is *-kka*. The suffix *-kka* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7 and *-ka* occurs with the other stems.

e.g. paṭi - kka	>	paṭikka	'read'
pō - ka	>	pōka	'go'
cel - ka	>	celka	'go'
vāl - ka	>	vāḷka	'long live'

1. 1. 7 Potential : The potential suffix is *-alām* and its variants are *-kalām* and *-kkalām*. The variant *-kkalām* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, *-kalām* with the stem of (C)Ṫ type and *-alām* with the other stems.

e.g. paṭi - kkalām	>	paṭikkalām	'may read'
pō - kalām	>	pōkalām	'may go'
col - alām	>	collalām	'may say'

1. 1. 8 Prohibitive: The prohibitive or the negative imperative forms of the verbs are formed by adding the negative suffix *-at* and the negative imperative suffix to the verb stems. The negative imperative can be classified as (a) informal, (b) polite, (c) polite 2 and (d) plural. The informal prohibitive suffix is *-ē*, the polite 1 prohibitive suffix is *-ir*, the polite 2 prohibitive suffix is *-irkaḷ* and the plural prohibitive suffix is again the same *irkaḷ*. It is already explained that *-at* has other variants i.e. *-kāṭ* and *-kkāṭ*. (see 1. 1. 2).

e.g. paṭi - kkāṭ - ē	>	paṭikkāṭē	'don't read'
paṭi - kkāṭ - ir	>	paṭikkāṭir	'don't read'

paṭi - kkāt - irkaḷ	>	paṭikkātirkaḷ	'don't read'
paṭi - kkāt - irkaḷ	>	paṭikkātirkaḷ	'don't read'
pō - kāt - ē	>	pōkātē	'don't go'
pō - kāt - ir	>	pōkātir	'don't go'
pō - kāt - irkaḷ	>	pōkātirkaḷ	'don't go'
pō - kāt - irkaḷ	>	pōkātirkaḷ	'don't go'
col - āt - ē	>	collātē	'don't say'
col - āt - ir	>	collātir	'don't say'
col - āt - irkaḷ	>	collātirkaḷ	'don't say'
col - āt - irkaḷ	>	collātirkaḷ	'don't say'

Rule 6

$$\text{Prohibitive} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{inf. Prohib.} \\ \text{po.1 Prohib.} \\ \text{po.2 Prohib.} \\ \text{pl. Prohib.} \end{array} \right\}$$

1. 2 Nonfinite forms

The nonfinite forms of the verbs might be broadly classified as adjectival participle and adverbial participle which the traditional grammarians call *peyareccam* and *viṇaiyeyccam* respectively. The adjectival participle is otherwise called relative participle.

1. 2.1. Adjectival participle : The adjectival or relative participles are classified into four on the basis of the tense markers. They are past relative participle, present relative participle, future relative participle and negative relative participle. Since the phrase 'relative participle' is more commonly used to mean *peyareccam*, henceforth we prefer the same.

Past relative participle : The structure of the past relative participle is Vst - Past tense- *a*.¹⁹

e.g. paṭi - tt - a	>	paṭitta	paṭi	'read'
naṭa - nt - a	>	naṭanta	naṭa	'walk'
cey - t - a	>	ceyta	cey	'do'
pāṭu - iṇ - a	>	pāṭiṇa	pāṭu	'sing'

Present relative participle : The structure of the present relative participle is Vst - present tense - *a*.

e.g. paṭi - kkiṇru - a > paṭikkiṇra
 naṭa - kkiṇru - a > naṭakkiṇra
 cey - kiṇru - a > ceykiṇra

Future relative participle : Regarding the future relative participle, the future tense and the relative participialization are shown by the suffix -*um* whose variants are -*kum* and -*kum*. The variant -*kkum* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, the variant -*ḥum* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and -*um* with the other stems.

e. g. paṭi - kkum > paṭikkum paṭi 'koad'
 pō - kum > pōkum pō 'go'
 aḷ - um > aḷum aḷ 'rule'

Negative relative participle : The structure of the negative relative participle is Vst - negative - *a*

e. g., paṭi - kkāt - a > paṭikkāta ²⁰
 pō - kāt - a > pōkāta
 āḷ - āt - a - > āḷāta

The following rule summarizes the adjectival participles.

Adj - PP → {
 Past Rp
 Present Rp
 Future Rp
 Neg Rp
 }

1. 2. 2. Adverbial Participle : The adverbial participles might be classified as follows:

- (a) Infinitive
- (b) Conjunctive
- (c) Conditional
- (d) Consecutive
- (e) Simultaneous
- (f) Negative

Infinitive: The infinitive suffix is *-a* and its variants are *-ka* and *-kka*. The variant *-kka* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7, the variant *-ka* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and *-a* with the other stems.

e. g., paṭi - kka > paṭikka
 pō - ka > pōka
 āḷ - a > āḷa

Conjunctive: The conjunctive participle is otherwise called verbal participle. The conjunctive participializer is *-tu* and its variants are *-ttu*, *ntu* and *-i*. The variant *-ttu* occurs with the stems of the class 6, *-ntu* with the stems of the classes 2 and 7, *-tu* with the stems of the classes 1 and 5 and *-i* with the stems of the class 3. The change of *-pu* into *-ppu*, regarding the class 4, makes the conjunctive participle in that case. There are some irregular verbs such as *ay*, *pōy*, etc.

e. g., cey -tu > ceytu
 paṭi -ttu > paṭittu
 naṭa -ntu > naṭantu
 pāṭu -i > pāṭi
 paṭu -Conj. pp > paṭṭu

Conditional Participle: The conditional participle is formed by adding *-āl* to the conjunctive participle.²¹ The variant of *-āl* is *-ṇāl*. The variant *-ṇāl* occurs after the conjunctive participializer *-i* (also *y*) and *-āl* with the rest.

e. g., ceytu āl > ceytāl
 naṭantu -āl > naṭantāl
 pāṭi -ṇāl > pāṭiṇāl
 paṭṭu -āl > paṭṭāl
 paṭu 'to occur to one's mind'

Consecutive: Consecutive participle is formed by adding *-atum* to the sequence of verb stems plus tense.

e. g., cey -t-atum > ceytatum
 paṭi -tt-atum > paṭittatum

pāṭu -iṇ-atum > pāṭiṇṇatum

naṭa -nt-atum > naṭantatum

Simultaneous : The simultaneous participle is formed by adding *kaiyil* to the verb stem. The variant of *kaiyil* is *-kkaiyil*. The variant *-kkaiyil* occurs with the stems of the classes 6 and 7 and *-kaiyil* with the other stems.

e. g., paṭi -kkaiyil > paṭikkaiyil

pāṭu -kaiyil > pāṭukaiyil

kāṇ -kaiyil > kāṇkaiyil

Negative : The negative participle is formed by adding *-āmal* or *ātu* to the verb stem. The variants of *-āmal* are *-kāmal* and *kkāmal* while the variants of *ātu* are *kātu* and *kkātu*. The variants *kkāmal* and *kkātu* occur with the stems belonging to the 6th and 7th classes, the variants *kāmal* and *kātu* with the stems of (C)V type and the rest occur with the other stems.²²

e. g., paṭi -kkāmal > paṭikkāmal

paṭi -kkātu > paṭikkātu

pō -kāmal > pōkāmal

pō -kātu > pōkātu

pāṭu -āmal > pāṭāmal

pāṭu -ātu > pāṭātu

All the adverbial participles might be summarized as follows :

Rule 8

Adv. PP → {
 Infinitive. PP
 Conjunctive. PP
 Conditional. PP
 Consecutive. PP
 Simultaneous. PP
 Negative. PP
 }

1. 3. Nouns Derived From Verbs

Regarding the nouns derived from verbs, there are two main divisions of which one class of nouns can take adjectives whereas the other class cannot. For instance, *ōṭṭam* 'run',

pāṭṭu 'song', etc., which are derived from the verbs *ōṭu* and *pāṭu* respectively, can take an adjective whereas the nouns *ōṭutal* 'running', *pāṭutal* 'singing', etc. cannot take an adjective. Those nouns which have lost their verbal force are not our main concern in this section and therefore the other class of nouns alone are treated here.

1. 3. 1. **Ceytal type:** The nouns of *cey_{tal}* type are formed by adding *-tal* to the stem. The variants of *-tal* are *-al* (which is a free variant of *-tal* except when added to the stems of (C)V̄ type) and *-ttal* which occurs after the stems of 6th and 7th classes. The variant *-tal* occurs with the stems of the first five classes.²³

e. g., cey - tal/al	> ceytal/ceyal	
āḷ - tal/al	> āḷutal/āḷal	ruling
aṅcu - tal/al	> aṅcutal/aṅcal	fearing
naku - tal/al	> nakutal/nakal	smiling
uṇ - tal/al	> uṇṇutal/uṇṇal	eating
pō - tal	> pōtal	going
kēḷ - ttal	> kēṭṭal	hearing
naṭa - ttal	> naṭattal	walking

The sandhi rules permit us to have *aṭal* and *uṇṭal* as well instead of *āḷutal* and *uṇṇutal* respectively.

1. 3. 2. **Vst - tense - suffix type:** The nouns like *ceytatu*, *ceyvatu*, *ceyyatatu*, etc. come under this division.

Ceytatu type: The nouns of *ceytatu* type are formed by adding the past tense marker and *atu* to the stem.²⁴

e. g., cey - t - atu	> ceytatu
paṭi - tt - atu	> paṭittatu
naṭa - nt - atu	> naṭantatu
iru - nt - atu	> iruntatu
pāṭu - iṇ - atu	> Pāṭiṇatu ²⁵
ōṭu - iṇ - atu	> ōṭiṇatu

Ceykinratu type: The nouns of *ceykinratu* type are formed by adding the present tense suffix and *-atu* to the stem.²⁶

- e. g., cey-kinru - atu > ceykinratu
 paṭi - kkinru - atu > paṭikkīratu
 pāṭu - kinru - atu > pāṭukīratu

Ceyvatu type: These nouns are formed by adding the future tense suffix and *-atu* to the stem.

- e. g., pō -v -atu > pōvatu
 paṭi -pp -atu > paṭippatu
 naṭa -pp -atu > naṭappatu

Ceyyātatu type: The nouns of ceyyātau type are formed by adding the negative suffix and *-atu* to the stem.²⁷

- e. g., pāṭu -āt -atu > pāṭātatu
 pō - kāt -atu > pōkātatu
 paṭi -kkāt -atu > paṭikkātatu
 naṭa -kkāt -atu > naṭakkātatu

1. 3. 3. Relative Participle - mai

By adding *-mai* to the relative participles, we can form another kind of nouns. It must be noted here that the suffix *-mai* cannot be added to the future relative participle.

Ceytamai type: Past relative participle plus *-mai* forms the nouns of *ceytamai* type.

- e. g., naṭanta -mai > naṭantamai
 paṭitta -mai > paṭittamai
 pāṭiṇa -mai > pāṭiṇamai
 pāṭiya -mai > pāṭiyamai

Ceykinramai type: Present relative participle plus *-mai* forms the nouns of *ceykinramai* type.

- e. g., pōkinra -mai > pōkinramai
 paṭikkīra -mai > paṭikkīramai
 naṭakkinra -mai > naṭakkinramai

Ceyyatamai type: Negative relative participle and *-mai* form the nouns of *ceyyātamai* type.²⁸

- e. g., pōkāta -mai > pōkātamai
 pāṭāta -mai > pāṭātamai
 collāta -mai > collātāmai

The formation of the verbal nouns discussed in 1. 3. 1, 1. 3. 2 and 1. 3. 3 can be summarized as follows;

Rule 9

$$VN \rightarrow V_{st} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} -tal \\ \text{Tense} -atu \\ \text{past} \\ \text{present} \\ \text{negative} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} -a -mai \end{array} \right\}$$

1. 3. 4. Conjugated Nouns

The conjugated nouns are otherwise known as participial nouns. The structure of these nouns is V_{st} -tense - Suffix. The suffixes used here are -avan, -avaḷ, -avar, -avarkaḷ, -atu and -avai. It might be noticed here that these suffixes and the remote demonstrative pronouns are formally alike.

- e. g., paṭi -tt -avan > paṭittavan
 paṭi -tt -avaḷ > paṭittavaḷ
 paṭi -tt -avar > paṭittavar

V_{st} - Past tense - Suffix

As mentioned above the suffixes are -avan, -avaḷ, -avar, -avarkaḷ, -atu and -avai.

- e. g., paṭi -tt -avan > paṭittavan
 paṭi -tt -avaḷ > paṭittavaḷ
 paṭi -tt -avar > paṭittavar
 paṭi -tt -avarkaḷ > paṭittavarkaḷ
 paṭi -tt -atu > paṭittatu
 paṭi -tt -avai > paṭittavai
 pāṭu -in -avan > pāṭinavan
 pāṭu -in -avaḷ > pāṭinavaḷ
 pāṭu -in -avar > pāṭinavar
 pāṭu -in -avarkaḷ > pāṭinavarkaḷ
 pāṭu -in -atu > pāṭinatu
 pāṭu -in -avai > pāṭinavai

In the case of *paṭinavan*, etc., the *n* in *in* is optionally dropped and then the glide *y* is introduced as a result of which we get *pāṭiyavan* instead of *paṭinavan*.²⁹

Vst - Present tense - Suffix: Conjugated nouns involving present tense are more common in spoken Tamil whereas conjugated nouns involving future tense are more common in literary Tamil. Also there is some kind of overlapping between the present and future tense. Nouns of Vst - Present tense - Suffix type are not uncommon nor impossible in literary Tamil.

e. g.,	paṭi -kkinru -avan	>	paṭikkinṛavan
	paṭi -kkinru -avaḷ	>	paṭikkinṛavaḷ
	paṭi -kkinru -avar	>	paṭikkinṛavar
	paṭi -kkinru -avarkaḷ	>	paṭikkinṛavarkaḷ
	paṭi -kkinru -atu	>	paṭikkinṛatu
	paṭi -kkinru -avai	>	paṭikkinṛavai

Vst - Future tense - Suffix : When looking at the forms *paṭittavan*, *paṭikkinṛavan*, etc., one might be tempted to analyse the conjugated nouns as relative participle plus person-number-gender suffix. Regarding the conjugated nouns involving future tense it is not possible to analyse them as future relative participle plus person - number - gender suffix. This is the reason why we analysed conjugated nouns as Vst - tense suffix - Suffix.

e. g.,	paṭi -pp -avan	>	paṭippavan
	paṭi -pp -avaḷ	>	paṭippavaḷ
	paṭi -pp -avar	>	paṭippavar
	paṭi -pp -avarkaḷ	>	paṭippavarkaḷ
	paṭi -pp -atu	>	paṭippatu
	paṭi -pp -avai	>	paṭippavai

Vst - Negative - Suffix : The negative suffix is - āt and its variants, as already stated, are - kāt and -kkāt.

e. g.,	paṭi -kkāt -avan	>	paṭikkātavan
	paṭi -kkāt -avaḷ	>	paṭikkātavaḷ
	paṭi -kkāt -avar	>	paṭikkātavar
	paṭi -kkāt -avarkaḷ	>	paṭikkātavarkaḷ
	paṭi -kkāt -atu	>	paṭikkātatu
	paṭi -kkāt -avai	>	paṭikkātavai

The formation of conjugated nouns might be summarized as follows.

Rule 10

$$\text{Conjugated Noun} \rightarrow \text{Vst} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Past} \\ \text{Present} \\ \text{Future} \\ \text{Negative} \end{array} \right\} - \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{avan} \\ \text{ava} \\ \text{avar} \\ \text{avarka} \\ \text{atu} \\ \text{avai} \end{array} \right\}$$

A verb when conjugated for tense,*Png., etc., gives 105 forms.

Finite forms

Vst - tense - Png	52
Vst - imperative	4
Vst - <i>aṭṭum</i>	1
Vst - <i>ka</i>	1
Vst - <i>alām</i>	1
Vst - Prohibitive	4
	<hr/> 63 <hr/>

Nonfinite forms

Relative participle	4
Adverbial „	6
	<hr/> 10 <hr/>

Derived nouns

Verbal noun	8
Conjugated nouns	24
	<hr/> 32 <hr/>

$$63 + 10 + 32 = 105$$

The verb *cey* has the following forms. Examples in sentences are given along with them.

Vst - tense - Png. cey 'do'

ceptēn	nān pārttēn	'I saw'
ceytōm	nām pārttōm	'We saw (incl.)'
ceytōm	nānkaŭ pārttōm	'We saw (excl.)'
ceytāy	nī pārttāy	'You saw'
ceytīr	nīr pārttīr	'You saw (hon.)'
ceytīrkaŭ	nīnkaŭ pārttīrkaŭ	'You saw (hon.)'
ceytīrkaŭ	nīnkaŭ pārttīrkaŭ	'You saw (pl.)'
ceytān	avan pārttān	'he saw'
ceytāŭ	avaŭ pārttāŭ	'she saw'
ceytār	avar pārttār	'he/she saw (hon.)'
ceytārkaŭ	avarkaŭ pārttārkaŭ	'they saw'
ceytatu	atu pārttatu	'it saw'
ceytana	avai pārttana	'they saw (nonhuman)'
ceykiṇrēn	nān pārkkiṇrēn	'I see'
ceykiṇrōm	nām pārkkiṇrōm	'We see (incl.)'
ceykiṇrōm	nānkaŭ pārkkiṇrōm	'We see (excl.)'
ceykiṇrāy	nī pārkkiṇrāy	'You see'
ceykiṇrīr	nīr pārkkiṇrīr	'You see (hon.)'
ceykiṇrīrkaŭ	nīnkaŭ pārkkiṇrīrkaŭ	'You see (hon.)'
ceykiṇrīrkaŭ	nīnkaŭ pārkkiṇrīrkaŭ	'You see (hon.)'
ceykiṇrān	avan pārkkiṇrān	'he sees'
ceykiṇrāŭ	avaŭ pārkkiṇrāŭ	'she sees'
ceykiṇrār	avar pārkkiṇrār	'he/she sees (hon.)'
ceykiṇrārkaŭ	avarkaŭ pārkkiṇrārkaŭ	'they see'
ceykiṇratu	atu pārkkiṇratu	'it sees'
ceykiṇrana	avai pārkkiṇrana	'they see'
ceyvēn	nān pārppēn	'I will see'
ceyvōm	nām pārppōm	'we will see (incl.)'
ceyvōm	nānkaŭ pārppōm	'we will see (excl.)'
ceyvāy	nī pārppāy	'You will see'
ceyvīr	nīr pārppīr	'You will see (hon.)'

ceyvīrkaḷ	nīnkaḷ pārppirkaḷ	'You will see (hon.)'
ceyvīrkaḷ	ninkaḷ pārppirkaḷ	'You will see (Pl.)'
ceyvāṇ	avaṇ pārppāṇ	'he will see'
ceyvāḷ	avaḷ pārppāḷ	'she will see'
ceyvār	avar pārppār	'he/she will see (hon.)'
ceyvārkaḷ	avarkaḷ pārppārkaḷ	'they will see'
ceyyum	atu pārkkum	'it will see'
ceyyum	avai pārkkum	'they will see'
ceyyēṇ	nāṇ pārēṇ	'I won't see'
ceyyōm	nām pārōm	'We won't see' (incl.)'
ceyyōm	nānkaḷ pārōm	'We won't see' (excl.)'
ceyyāy	nī pārāy	'You won't see'
ceyyīr	nīr pārīr	'You won't see (hon.)'
ceyyīrkaḷ	nīnkaḷ pārīrkaḷ	'You won't see (hon.)'
ceyyīrkaḷ	nīnkaḷ pārīrkaḷ	'You won't see' (pl.)'
ceyyān	avaṇ pārāṇ	'he won't see'
ceyyāḷ	avaḷ pārāḷ	'she won't see'
ceyyār	avar pārār	'he/she won't see (hon.)'
ceyyārkaḷ	avarkaḷ pārārkaḷ	'they won't see'
ceyyātu	atu pārātu	'it won't see'
ceyyā	avai pārā	'they won't see'

Regarding the negative forms given above except *ceyyātu*, type the other forms are rather uncommon in Modern Tamil.

Imperative

cey	nī cey	'You do'
ceyyum	nīr ceyyum	'You do (hon.)'
ceyyuṅkaḷ	nīnkaḷ ceyyuṅkaḷ	'You do (hon.)'
ceyyuṅkaḷ	nīnkaḷ ceyyuṅkaḷ	'You do (pl.)'

Desiderative

ceyyaṭṭum	avaṇ varaṭṭum	'let him come'
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Optative

ceyka	avarkaḷ vāḷka	'let them live long'
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Potential

ceyyalām	nīnkaḷ ulṭe varalām	'You may come in'
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Prohibitive

ceyyātē	nī paṭātē	‘don’t sing’
ceyyātir	nir paṭātir	‘don’t sing (hon.)’
ceyyātirkaḷ	nīnkaḷ paṭātirkaḷ	‘don’t sing (hon.)’
ceyyātirkaḷ	nīnkaḷ paṭātirkaḷ	‘don’t sing (pl.)’

Relative Participle

ceyta	paṭitta paiyaṇ	‘the boy who read’
ceykiṇṇa	paṭikkiṇṇa Paiyaṇ	‘the boy who reads’
ceyyum	paṭikkum Paiyaṇ	‘the boy who will read’
ceyyāta	paṭikkata Paiyaṇ	‘the boy who did not read’

Adverbial Participle

ceyya :	avaṇ uṇkaḷaip pārkka vantaṇ	‘he came to see you’
ceytu :	avaṇ iṇku vantu eṇṇaip pārttāṇ	‘he came here and saw me’
ceytāl / ceyyiṇ :	nī kēṭṭāl avar koṭuppār	‘he will give if you ask for it’
ceytatum :	avaṇ vantatum aval pōyviṭṭāl	‘she went as soon as he came’
ceykaiyil :	avaṇ pāṭukaiyil aval tūṇkiṇṇāl	‘she slept while he sang’
ceyyāmal/ceyyātu :	aval cāppiṭāmal tūṇkiviṭṭāl	‘she slept without eating’

Verbal Noun

ceytal :	nīnkaḷ nālai varutaḷ nallatu	‘It is good for you to come tomorrow’
ceytatu :	avar vantatu uṇmai	‘it is true that he came’
ceykiṇṇratu :	nīnkaḷ elutukiṇṇratu cari	‘what you write is correct’
ceyvatu :	nīnkaḷ pāṭuvatu cari	‘it is correct that you sing’
ceyyātatu :	avaṇ varāṭatu cariyalla	‘it is not correct that he did not come’
ceytamal :	marantamaikku varuntukirēṇ	‘I am sorry I forgot’

ceykinramai : avan pāṭukinramai nanru

‘it is good for him to sing’

ceyyātamai/ceyyāmai : maṭal eḷutatamaikku varuntukrē

‘I am sorry that I didn’t write to you’

Conjugated Noun

ceytavan : avantān itaip paṭittavan

‘it is he who read this’

ceytavaḷ : avaḷtān itaip paṭittavaḷ

‘it is she who read this’

ceytavar : avartān itaip paṭittavar

‘it is he / she (hon.) who read this’

ceytavarkaḷ : avarkaḷtān itaip paṭittavarkaḷ

‘it is they who read this’

ceytatu : atuṭān uṅkaḷai iṭittatu

‘it is that one which hit you’

ceytavai : avaitān uṅkaḷai iṭiittavai

‘it is they which hit you’

ceykinravan : ivantān itaip paṭikkinravan

‘it is he who reads this’

ceykinravaḷ : ivaḷtān itaip paṭikkinravaḷ

‘it is she who reads this’

ceykinravar : ivartān itaip paṭikkinravar

‘it is he / she who reads this’

ceykinravarkaḷ : ivarkaḷtān itaip paṭikkinravarkaḷ

‘it is they who read this’

ceykinratu : itu nān paṭikkinratu

‘it is this that I read’

ceykinravai : ivai nān paṭikkinravai

‘it is these that I read’

ceypavan : itaip paṭippavan avantān

‘it is he who will read this’

ceypavaḷ : itaip paṭippavaḷ avaḷtān

‘it is she who will read this’

ceypavar : itaip paṭippavar avartān

‘it is he/she (hon.) who will read this’

ceypavarkaḷ : itaip paṭippavarkaḷ avarkaḷtān

‘it is they who will read this’

ceyvatu : itu nāṇ paṭippatu

'it is this that I usually read'

ceypavai : ivai nāṇ paṭippavai

'it is these that I usually read'

ceyyātavaṇ : itaip paṭikkātavaṇ avantāṇ

'it is he who did not read this'

ceyyātavaḷ : itaip paṭikkātavaḷ avaltāṇ

'it is she who did not read this'

ceyyātavar : itaip paṭikkatavar avartāṇ

'it is he / she (hon.) who did not read this'

ceyyātavarkaḷ : itaip paṭikkatavarkaḷ avarkaḷtāṇ

'it is they who did not read this'

ceyyātatu : itutāṇ nāṇ paṭikkātatu

'it is this that I did not read'

ceyyātavai : ivaitāṇ nāṇ paṭikkātavai

'it is these that I did not read'

FOOTNOTES

1. The *tanvinai* cannot be equated with intransitive verb because there are transitive and intransitive verbs in *tanvinai*. Hence *piravinai* cannot be equated with transitive verb either.

e. g.,	uṇ (tr.)	ūṭtu
	kāṇ	kāṭtu
	uṇar	unarttu
	pūṇ	pūṭtu

2. The verbs which can take PV and those which cannot take PV are not phonologically predictable. Therefore the verb stems are divided into two classes on the basis of the occurrence of PV.

3. Though - Pu > - Ppu and - NPu > - Ppu are phonologically predictable the rest are not,

e. g.,	miḷ - PV	miṭtu
	miḷ - PV	miḷ

tāy - PV	tāy
pāy - PV	pāyccu

4. Vs₁. a, Vs₁. b Vs₁. c can be grouped together by introducing some special kind of sandhi rules. From the teaching point of view, I like to present the analysis in such a way that it is closer to the traditional writing system. Besides it should be mentioned here that the Vs₁.a, Vs₁. b and Vs₁. c when taking PV go to the stem class 3 and Vs₁ d when taking PV goes to the class 6.

5. It must be mentioned here that the *piraviṇai* formation is not consistent in a few cases. They need further explanation.

e. g., paṭu 'suffer' paṭuttu 'make - suffer', but uṭu 'wear' uṭuttu 'wear' alintāṇ & alittāṇ contrast but niṇaintāṇ & niṇaittāṇ are synonymous.

6. It is found quite useful to teach the optative forms along with the verb stems so that the students might be able to learn and predict the conjugated forms more easily. All the verb stems when taking causative suffix go to the stem class 6.

7. It is very rare to find three causative suffixes occurring together. Though it is acceptable to have two causative suffixes together, it must be mentioned that it is not very common in the actual usage.

8. Tamil lexicon gives tt, rr, ṇṭ, ṇr, ṭ & r in addition to the five we mentioned. Since the regular sandhi rules can take care of them they are not listed here.

9. The suffix *-um* is dealt with in the following section when dealing with person - number - gender markers.

10. These stems may also take ā and āt and they are not very common in actual usage, e.g. naṭakkātu, naṭavātu.

11. The verbs *pō*, *a*, *cā*, etc. take - *kā* and *kat*. If they are treated as *pōku*, *āku*, *cāku*, etc. they take - *ā* and - *āt*.

12. In the middle and old Tamil, we do not find such restriction. Even in modern Tamil, one may find negative -*ā* being used in poetry as it was used in middle and old Tamil.

13. There are some irregular verbs which are not included in these seven classes and they are *vā*, *tā*, *cā*, *nō*, *vē*, *kāṇ*, *uṇ*, *pōṭu*, *cāppiṭu*, *kūppiṭu*, etc.

14. It is possible to reduce all the classes into one single class. Such analysis might be rather complicated and too technical for the Tamil learners. Those who take a special interest in such analysis may refer to the author's paper, Verb Conjugation in Tamil in *Studies in Tamil Linguistics*.

15. In order to avoid confusion -*ōm* referring to *nām* and -*ōm* referring to *nāṇkāḷ* are treated as two different items. The same argument holds good for *irkaḷ* referring to *nīṅkaḷ* in singular and plural.

16. The Png markers, *aṇ* a variant of *āṇ*, *aḷ* a variant of *āl* and *ar* a variant of *ār*, might be found in middle and old Tamil and also in poems of modern Tamil. They are not listed here since they are not common in actual usage.

17. When conjugated for negative, except the nonhuman singular and plural, other forms are extremely rare in modern Tamil.

18. There is another sort of imperative suffix, -*avum* commonly used in letter writing. The other variants of the suffix are -*kavum* and -*kkavum*. The variant -*kkavum* occurs with the stem of the classes 6 and 7, the variant -*kavum* with the stems of (C)V̄ type and *avum* with the other stems.

19. Regarding Vst - *iṇ* - *a*, the *ṇ* in *iṇ* may be optionally dropped. For instance *pātu* - *iṇ*- *a* may give *paṭiyā* where *ṇ* is dropped and the glide *y* is introduced. Though *paṭiṇa* and *paṭiya* are acceptable, the latter is more common and preferable.

20. In some dialects the negative variant -*āt* is used instead of -*kkāt*. For instance, those dialects use *paṭiyāta* instead of *paṭikkāta*. Among *paṭikkāta* and *paṭiyāta*, the former is more regular and more common and hence preferable. In poetic usage the final - *ta* may be dropped and thus *ōṭāta* and *ōṭā* are synonymous.

21. There is also another way of forming the Conditional participle, i.e., by adding - *iṇ* to the stem. Since it is not very common in modern written Tamil, it is not treated with *āl*.

e.g., *cey* - *iṇ* > *ceyyiṇ*
pātu - *iṇ* > *pāṭiṇ*
koṭu - *iṇ* > *koṭuppiṇ/koṭukkiṇ*
naṭa - *iṇ* > *naṭappiṇ/naṭakkiṇ*

The formation of *koṭuppiṇ/koṭukkiṇ* and *naṭappiṇ/naṭakkiṇ* needs some historical explanation.

22. In certain dialects - *āmal* / - *ātu* is used instead of *kkāmal* / *kkātu*. For instance *paṭiyāmal* / *paṭiyātu* may be found instead of *paṭikkāmal* / *paṭikkātu*.

23. It might be mentioned here that there are certain forms (*cākal*, *koṭukkal* etc.) with the suffix - *kal* whose variant is - *kkal*. Since such formation is not quite common it is not considered here.

24. This *ceytatu* has no plural form and this is different from the *ceytatu* which will be found among the conjugated nouns.

25. Regarding Vst - *iṇ* - *atu*, the *ṇ* in *iṇ* may be dropped and the glide - *y* - may be introduced. Instead of *pāiṇatn* and *oṭiṇatu* we may get *pāṭiyatu* and *ōṭiyatu* which are more common in actual usage. In order to avoid confusion the form Vst - *iṇ* - *atu* is preferred and given here from the teaching point of view.

26. Though it is possible to have Vst - *kiṇru* - *atu*, it is less acceptable in modern written Tamil.

27. In certain dialects, -*āt* is used instead of -*kkāt*. For instance *paṭiyātatu*, *naṭavātatu* etc. may be found in those dialects.

28. As mentioned already in footnote 20 we can have negative relative participle without the final -*ta* to which -*mai* can be added. Therefore we may get forms like *pōkāmai* (<*pōkā* - *mai*) *cellāmai* (<*cellā* - *mai*) etc. in literature. Also we may get forms like *paṭiyāmai*, *naṭavāmai* etc. where -*ā* is found instead of -*kkā*.

29. The dropping of *ṇ* in *iṇ* was already mentioned in footnote 25.

The Complex Verb in Modern Tamil

2. Complex Verb

By Complex verb we mean (1) the verb with two or more roots and (2) the verb with aspectual and modal auxiliaries.

2. 1. Finite forms : Henceforth we deal with the complex forms of the verb including the compound stems.

2. 1. 1. The compound stem : A compound stem may be of the following structures.

1. N+V	e.g.,	pōrātu	struggle
2. VP + V		kaṇṭupīṭi	discover
3. Vroot + V		kolluṇ	be killed
4. V _k + V		uṇṭāku	develop
5. Prt + V		mēṛkoḷ	adopt

N + V : In this structure the verb may be *koḷ*, *paṭu*, *cey*, *paṇṇu*, *paṭuttu*, *āku*, *ākkū*, *āṭu*, etc.

e.g.,	kōpam - koḷ	>	kōpaṅkoḷ	get angry
	kōpam - paṭu	>	kōpappaṭu	get angry
	kēli - cey	>	kēlicey	mock
	kēli - paṇṇu	>	kēlipaṇṇu	mock
	cari - paṭuttu	>	carippaṭuttu	mend
	pulaṇ - āku	>	pulaṇāku	be perceptible
	cari - ākkū	>	cariyākkū	mend
	pōr - āṭu	>	pōrātu	struggle

The noun *kōpam* can select *koḷ* as well as *paṭu*. That is to say, *kopaṅkoḷ* and *kopappaṭu* are acceptable, but *kātarpaṭu* is not

acceptable while *katal koḷ* is all right. We cannot predict which noun takes which auxiliary verb. This is true with the other compound stems too.

VP + V: This kind of compound stems are formed by verbal participle plus verb.

e. g.,	eḷuntiru	get up
	kaṇṭupīṭi	discover
	oṭṭukkoḷ	agree
	viṭṭukkoṭu	give in
	vēṇṭikkol	request

Vroot + V: A combination of certain verb roots and verbs forms this type of compound stems.

e. g.,	kolluṇ	be killed
	putaiyuṇ	be buried
	aṭipaṭu	be beaten
	utaipaṭu	be broken

Vk + V: The verb *uṇṭu* can be followed by *aku* or *akku*. The verb *uṇṭu* itself is a finite verb which is called *kurippuvinaḷ* in Tamil. This division contains only these two stems, i. e., *uṇṭaku* and *uṇṭakku*.

Prt + V: Certain particles plus certain verbs make this kind of compounds.

e. g.,	muṇṇēru	progress
	muṇpaṭu	come forward
	piṇpaṭu	lag behind
	mēmpaṭu	improve
	kiḷppaṭu	deteriorate
	kaṭaippaṭu	fall behind
	kaṭaippiṭi	observe

2. 1. 2. Aspectuals

The aspectuals are further classified according to the auxiliary verbs added to the main verb. When such auxiliaries are added to the main verb the main verb is in the verbal participial form. The aspectuals are named according to their predominant meanings.¹

Vpp - Aux - Tns - Gp
 Vantu - Viṭu - v - ār
 Vantu - iru - nt - ār
 avar vantu viṭuvār 'he will definitely come'
 avar vantiruntār 'he had come'

Progressive Vpp - koṇṭiru - Tns - Gp
 paṭittu - koṇṭiru - nt - ār
 avar paṭittuk koṇṭiruntār 'he was reading'

Perfective Vpp - iru - Tns - Gp
 vantu - iru - nt - ār
 avar vantiruntār 'he had come'

Definitive Vpp - viṭu - Tns - Gp
 vantu - viṭu - v - ār
 avar vantu viṭuvār 'he will definitely come'

Trial² Vpp - pār - Tns - Gp
 eḷuti - pār - tt - ār
 avar eḷutip pārttār 'he tried writing'

Demonstrational Vpp - kāṭṭu - Tns - Gp
 eḷuti - kāṭṭu - v - ār
 avar eḷutik kāṭṭuvār 'he will demonstrate how to write'

Reflexive³ Vpp - koḷ - Tns - Gp
 vāṅki - koḷ - v - ār
 avar vāṅkik koḷvār 'he will buy for himself'

Reciprocal Vpp - kol - Tns - Gp
 kāṭalittu - koḷ - nt - ārkāḷ
 avarkaḷ kāṭalittuk koṇṭārkaḷ 'they loved each other'

Accidental Vpp - pō - Tns - Gp
 uṭaintu - pō - in - tu
 atu uṭaintu poyirru 'it broke'

Contemptive Vpp - tolai - Tns - Gp
eḷuti - tolai - tt - āṛ

avar eḷutittolaittār 'he wrote with contempt',

Preservative⁴ Vpp - vai - Tns - Gp
vānki - vai - tt - āṛ

avar vānki vaittār

'he bought and kept it' (for future utility)

Benefactive Vpp - aruḷ - Tns - Gp
colli - aruḷ - iṇ - āṛ

avar colliyaruliṇār 'he said'

In Tamil all the auxiliary verbs are found functioning as main verb as well. It may be noted here that the progressive marker *koṇṭiru* is a combination of the verbal participial form of *koḷ* 'receive' and *iru* 'be'. The meanings of the other auxiliaries may be easily referred to in any Tamil dictionary.

2. 1. 3. Modal

The modal auxiliaries are added to the infinitive form of the main verb. The modals are further classified according to the syntactic behaviour of the auxiliary verbs.⁵

Inceptive Vinf - pō - Tns - Gp
vara - pō - .kir - āṛ

avar varappōkirār 'he is going to come'

Attemptive Vinf - pār - Tns - Gp
ōta - pār - tt - āṇ

avaṇ ṭappārttāṇ 'he tried to run'

Probabilitative Vinf - kūṭum
vara - kūṭum

iṇru maḷai varakkūṭum 'it may rain today'

Obligatory Vinf - vēṇṭum
pōka - vēṇṭum

nāṇ iṇṇōtu pōka vēṇṭum 'I must go now'

Negative 1 Vinf - māṭṭ - Gp
 vara - māṭṭ - ār

avar vara māṭṭār 'he won't come'

Negative 2 Vinf - illai
 vara - illai

avar varavillai 'he does / did not come'

Note that the auxiliaries *pār* and *māṭṭ* take Gp marker while *kūṭum*, *vēṇṭum* and *illai* do not. Except *māṭṭ* the other auxiliary verbs can function as main verb as well.⁶

2. 1. 4. Voice

Passive

In all the passive constructions the transitive verb is changed into its infinitive form and the auxiliary verb -*paṭu* 'suffer' is added to the infinitive.⁷

e. g., kol > kollappaṭu 'be killed'
 paṭi > paṭikkappaṭu 'be read'

Causative

In the causative constructions the verb changes into its infinitive form and it takes *vai* 'put' *cey* 'do' or *paṇṇu* 'make'.⁸

e. g. oṭu > oṭavai 'cause to run'
 oṭaccey 'make run'
 oṭappaṇṇu ..

2. 2. Nonfinite Forms

2. 2. 1. Adverbial Participles

Besides the simple adverbial participles there are a few compound adverbial participles.

Simultaneity

The structure of the compound participle of simultaneity is verbal participle + *koṇṭu*.

e. g., eḷuti - koṇṭu > eḷutikkoṇṭu

avar eḷutikkoṇṭu pēcinār 'he talked while writing'

Disjunctive

The structure of the disjunctive participle is verbal participle + *viṭṭu*.

e. g., eḷuti - viṭṭu > eḷutiviṭṭu

avar eḷutiviṭṭup paṭittār 'he read after finished writing'

Negative conditional

The structure of the negative conditional participle is verb stem - ā - viṭṭāl. The variants of *ā* are *kā* and *kkā* and they occur as described for negative in 1. 1. 2.

e. g., pātu - ā viṭṭāl > pāṭaviṭṭāl

nī pāṭaviṭṭāl nānum pāṭamāṭṭēn

'if you don't sing I won't sing either'

Adverbials of other kinds

Certain Compound adverbials are formed by adding the particles like *pōtu*, *uṭan*, etc., to the adjectival or relative participles. These adverbials may be temporal, manneral, limitative or distributive.

Temporal : The particles used in the temporal adverbials are *pōtu* / *Polutu*, *muṇ* / *muṇpu*, *piṇ* / *piṇpu* / *piṇṇāl* / *piraku* and *uṭan* / *uṭanē*. Of them, *pōtu* can occur with past, present, future and negative relative participles, *muṇ* can occur with future relative participles and with negative ones as well and the rest can occur only with past relative participles.

RP + *pōtu* / *polutu*

vantapōtu / vantapolutu 'when sb. / sth. came'

kaṇṭapōtu / kaṇṭapolutu 'when sb. / sth. saw'

varukirapōtu / varukirapolutu 'when sb. / sth. comes'

tarukirapōtu / tarukirapolutu 'when sb. / sth. gives'

varumpōtu / varumpolutu 'when sb. / sth. comes'

tarumpōtu / tarumpolutu 'when sb. / sth. gives'

varātapōtu / varātapōlutu

‘when sb. / sth. does not come’

tarātapōtu / tarātapōlutu

‘when sb. / sth. does not give’

RP + mun / munpu

varum mun / varum munpu ‘before sb. / sth. comes’

pōkum mun / pōkum munpu ‘before sb. / sth. goes

varāmun / varā munpu ‘before sb. / sth. does not come’

pōkā mun / pōkā munpu ‘before sb. / sth. does not go’

RP + pin / pinpu / piraku

vantapin / vantapinpu / vantapiraku ‘after sb./ sth. came’

kaṇṭapin / kaṇṭapinpu / kaṇṭapiraku ‘after sb./ sth. saw’

pōnapin / pōnapinpinpu / pōnapiraku ‘after sb./sth. went’

RP + uṭaṇ / uṭaṇē

vantavuṭaṇ / vantavuṭaṇē ‘as soon as sb. / sth. came’

kaṇṭavuṭaṇ / kaṇṭavuṭaṇē ‘as soon as sb. / sth. saw’

pōnavuṭaṇ / pōnavuṭaṇē ‘as soon as sb. / sth. went’

Manneral : The particles used in the manneral adverbials are *paṭi*, *aru* and *vaṇṇam*.⁹

RP + paṭi / āru / vaṇṇam

conṇapaṭi ‘as sb.said’

conṇavārū ..

conṇavaṇṇam ..

colkirapaṭi ‘as sb. says’

colkiravāru ..

colkiravaṇṇam ..

Limitative : The particles used in the limitative adverbials are *varai*, *varaiyil* and *maṭṭum*.

RP + varai / varaiyil / maṭṭum

varukiravarai ‘until sb. / sth. comes’

varukiravaraiyil ..

varukiramaṭṭum ..

varumvarai ..

varumvaraiyil ..

varumaṭṭum ..

Distributive : The distributive adverbials are not as common as the other three. The structure of this adverbial is RP + *tōrum/torum*. It must be noted that *tōrum* occurs only with future relative participle.

- e. g., *varuntōrum* / *varuntorum* 'every time when sb. /
sth. comes'
ayuntōrum / *ayuntorum* 'whenever sb. studies'
kēṭkuntōrum / *kēṭkuntorum* 'whenever sb. hears'

2. 2. 2 Adjectival participles

There are certain compound adjectivals which are somewhat complicated and hence they are treated separately. These adjectivals are formed by adding *vēṇṭiya*, *kūṭiya*, *takka*, and *valla* to the infinitive forms of the verbs.

- e. g., *pārkkavēṇṭiya* '(sth. sb.) one should see'
pāṭakkūṭiya '(sb.) who can sing'
pārkkattakka '(sth.) worth seeing'
pāṭavalla '(sb.) who can sing'

It is worth mentioning here that *kūtāta* and *takāta* are used to form the negative adjectivals; but semantically they are not the corresponding negative forms of the items given above.

- e. g., *pārkkakkūtāta* '(sth.) one should not see'
pārkkattakāta '(sb. / sth.) one should not see'

2. 2. 3. The negative forms

The negative forms are very irregular and rather complicated. However, an attempt is made now to give a fairly clear account of the negative forms.

Desiderative: The structure of the negative desiderative would be Vst - āmal - *irukkaṭṭum*. For the variants of *āmal* see negative in 1. 2. 2.

- e. g., *varamalirukkaṭṭum* 'let sb. / sth. not come'
pōkāmāmalirukkaṭṭum 'let sb. / sth. not go'

Sometimes *pōkaṭṭum* is used instead of *iurukkaṭṭum*.

Optative

The structure of the negative optative is Vst - ātu - oḷika.
For the variants of *ātu* see negative in 1. 2. 2.

- e. g., varātoḷika 'may sb. / sth. not come'
 pokātoḷika 'may sb. / sth. not go'
 pāṭatoḷika 'may sb. not sing'

Potential

The structure of the negative potential is Vst - āmal - irukkalām / pōkalām.

- e. g., varāmalirukkalām 'sb. / sth. may not come'
 varāmalpōkalām "
 naṭakkāmalirukkalām 'sth. may not happen'
 naṭakkāmalpōkalām "

Infinitive

The structure of the negative infinitive is Vst - āmal - irukka / pōka¹⁰

- e. g., kēṭkāmal irukka 'not to ask'
 kēṭkāmal pōka "

Conjunctive

Vst - āmal - iruntu / pōy

- ceyyāmal iruntu 'having not done'
 pōkāmal iruntu 'having not gone'
 ceyyāmar pōy 'having not done'

Conditional

We have already seen a negative conditional in 2.2.1.
The negative conditional can also be formed as follows.¹¹

Vst - āmal - iruntāl / pōṇāl

- varāmal iruntāl 'if sb. / sth. did not come'
 varāmar pōṇāl "
 pāṭāmal iruntāl 'if sb. did not sing'
 pāṭāmal pōṇāl "

Consecutive

Vst - āmal - poṇatum

ceyyāmar poṇatum 'as soon as sb. / sth. did not do'

pāṭamar poṇatum 'as soon as sb. did not sing'

Simultaneous

Vst - āmal - irukkaiyil

ceyyāmal irukkaiyil 'when sb. has not done'

pokāmal irukkaiyil 'when sb. has not gone'

varāmal irukkaiyil 'when sb. / sth. has not come,

Verbal Noun

(a) Vst - āmal - iruttal

ceyyāmal iruttal 'act of not doing'

(b) Vst - āmal - iru - Tns - atu

ceyyāmal iruntatu 'the fact that sb. has not done'

ceyyāmal iruppatu 'the fact that sb. does not do'

(c) Vst - āmal { irunta
irukkiṇra } mai

ceyyāmal iruntamai 'the fact that sb. did not do'

ceyyāmal irukkiṇramai 'the fact that sb. does not do'

2.2.4. Repetitive ¹²

The simple infinitive and the simple conjunctive forms can be repeated.

e. g., vara vara 'the more sb. / sth. comes'
vantu vantū 'having come repeatedly'

FOOTNOTES

1. There are certain semantic restrictions regarding the occurrence of aspectual auxiliaries. For instance the auxiliaries *koḷ*, and *vai* do not occur with the verb 'cā' 'die'.
2. Note the difference between Vpp + *pār* and Inf. + *pār*.
3. It is not clear whether *koḷ* is an aspectual marker or a voice marker.
4. The author wishes to thank miss M. Hume for suggesting the term *preservative*.
5. This is not an exhaustive study of aspectual and modal auxiliaries. There may be a few more auxiliaries to be treated here.
6. An historical study of *māṭṭ* may prove that it was a main verb: but it is not our main concern here. The verb stems of *kūṭum* and *vēṇṭum* are *kūṭu* and *vēṇṭu* respectively.
7. The structures of the active and passive sentences are as follows :

NP₁ + NP₂ ai + Vb - tns - Gp. (active)

e. g. Kaṇṇan rāmaṇ - ai kol - nt - āṇ
'kannan' 'Raman' (acc) 'killed'

NP₂ + NP₁ - āl + Vb - Inf. m. - paṭu - tns - Gp.
(passive)

e. g. rāmaṇ kaṇṇan - āl kol - a - paṭu - āṇ.
'Raman' 'by kannan' 'was killed'

8. The structures of noncausative and causative sentences are as follows :

NP₁ + NP₂ - āl + Vb - tns - Gp. (non-causative)

e. g., *avan unkaḷ - āl* *ōṭu - in - āṇ*

‘he’ ‘because of you’ ‘ran’

$NP_2 + NP_1 - ai + Vb - Inf. m. - vai - tns - Gp.$
(causative)

e. g., *nīnkaḷ avan - ai* *ōṭu - a - vai - tt - irkaḷ*

‘you’ ‘him’ ‘made run’

9. When *paṭi*, *āru* and *vaṇṇam* are added to the future relative participle the meaning of the items are rather different. For instance *virumpinapaṭi* means ‘as sb. desired’ while *virumpumpaṭi* means ‘in such a way that sb. would desire.’

10. When *ivu* occurs as a main verb the negative infinitive is formed by adding *pōka*. When *pō* occurs as a main verb the negative infinitive is formed by adding *iru*.

e. g., *illāmalpōka* ‘not to be’
pōkāmal irukka ‘not to go’

11. In middle and old Tamil, the structure of the negative conditional is found as follows :

Vst. - *ātu - oḷiyin*

e. g., *vārātoliyin* ‘if sb. / sth. does not come’
kēlātoliyin ‘if sb. does not hear’

12. Only the infinitive and conjunctive forms are found as repetitive items. It should be kept in mind that the idiomatic use of *vara vara* ‘gradually, in the course of time’ is different from the repetitive *vara vara*.

